

I am pleased to inform you that the ILS Assigned Counsel Program (ACP) Standards were approved by a unanimous vote of the Indigent Legal Services Board at its meeting on June 14, 2019. They will be in effect as of July 1, 2019. A copy of the Black Letter Standards is attached, as is a copy of the Standards with Commentary.

We are very grateful to ILS Director of Criminal Trial Litigation Matt Alpern who has led this effort throughout, to his ILS colleague Cynthia Feathers and NYSDA colleague Mardi Crawford, to the past and present Assigned Counsel Program administrators who joined the working group and provided significant assistance, and to the NYSBA committees on Mandated Representation and Families and the Law which provided timely suggestions, many of which we adopted. Finally we thank the ILS Board, which reviewed drafts of these Standards at two prior meetings, and provided valuable suggestions that enabled us to complete this enormous undertaking and bring it to completion.

Many of these standards have been implemented or are beginning to be implemented in New York's counties, under the 2015 court-approved *Hurrell-Harring* Settlement and the 2017 statewide expansion of those reforms pursuant to Executive Law § 832 (4), at state expense. These improvements in Assigned Counsel Programs are a vital component of the reforms we are in the process of implementing. We are, as we always strive to do, working cooperatively and constructively with state and local officials in the execution of our responsibilities under the Settlement and the Statute.

We invite your comments, which may be directed to me, Matt Alpern ([Matthew.Alpern@ils.ny.gov](mailto:Matthew.Alpern@ils.ny.gov)) or Cynthia Feathers ([Cynthia.Feathers@ils.ny.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Feathers@ils.ny.gov)).

Thank you for your interest and your cooperation,

Bill